

# Fun in Fourth Grade

## CHECKING IN WITH MRS. COLIN AND MISS SEILER

[www.mrscolinsclass.com](http://www.mrscolinsclass.com)  
<http://msseiler.weebly.com/>

### What's New?

#### MONTHLY BOOK PROJECTS

A monthly book project was introduced after returning from the winter break in January. The monthly book project is a long term homework assignment. Students have the opportunity to express their creativity by choosing from a variety of options such as a diorama, commercial, scripted performance, PowerPoint presentation, or comic strip.



*We received many beautiful, creative projects!*

#### CLASS MEETINGS IN MISS SEILER'S CLASS

Miss Seiler's class has a class meeting each Tuesday morning. The class meeting is part of the Positive Discipline program. It provides us with a structured time to share compliments, work out current problems, and ensure that all of our voices are heard!

#### MATH ROTATIONS

Small groups consisting of 4-5 students rotate between multiplication and division fact drills, practicing current skills independently, teacher instruction, and completing a hands-on activity or game. The groupings are based on the results of unit pretests and are updated often based on teacher observation and current assessments. Ipads or laptops are used daily for practice on Quizlet, IXL, Sumdog, or Xtramath.

#### SWITCHING FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

On Mondays and Thursdays, Mrs. Colin's homeroom class is switching rooms to learn about the Southeast Region of the United States with Ms. Seiler. Ms. Seiler's homeroom is learning about the Northeast with Mrs. Colin. This switch allows the students to get to know another teacher and prepares them for Upper School, where they will be moving from class to class with their materials.

#### HISTORICAL FICTION UNIT

Students chose their own historical fiction novel and are reading at their own pace. Teachers confer with students multiple times throughout the week and assess understanding through these discussions and their reading response log.

#### INVENTION CONVENTION

We are supporting Mrs. Trahan's Invention Convention project by completing the written portions in our homeroom writing class. Over the course of the project, students will write two papers, a speech, and a storyboard for their commercial.

# What's Next?

## INVENTION CONVENTION

In the weeks leading up to Spring Break, fourth graders will finish up their Invention Convention projects. Each partnership will collaborate with eighth grade students to learn more about imovie for the creation of their product commercials. Please mark your calendars for Friday, March 17 at 8:30 a.m. Invention Convention will begin with speeches and commercials presentations in the auditorium. Afterwards, guests are invited to the Field House to view each partnership's board and invention.

## HISTORICAL FICTION PROJECT

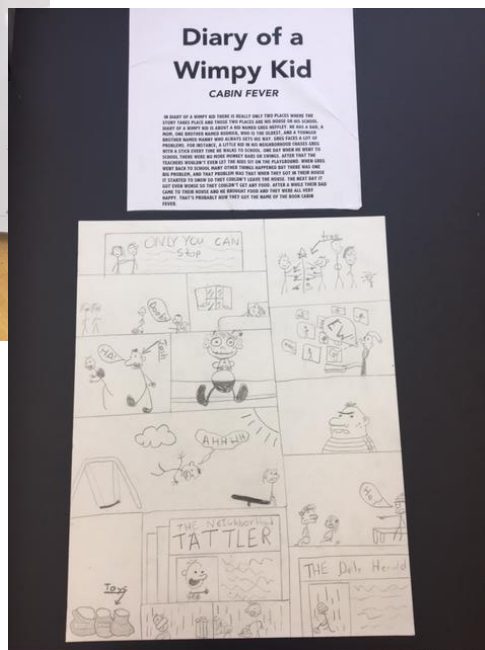
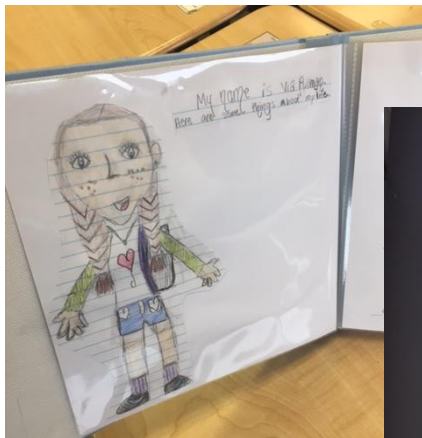
Students will research the time periods in which their books were set and create a trifold board. This board will display the information they discover and how it relates to their novels. Stay tuned to hear more about this engaging project that encourages students to think critically about connections between history and fiction.

## WEEBLY WRITING PORTFOLIO

In the final quarter, students will create a digital writing portfolio using Weebly. Their portfolio will compile digital copies and photos of their original writing pieces from their fourth grade year.

## SOCIAL STUDIES TRAVEL PROJECT

In addition to learning about the Midwest, Southwest, and West regions of our country, each student will complete a USA travel project. Acting as a travel agent for a company they get to name, students will design a vacation for a fictional family based off of each family member's interests.



Some more  
awesome  
projects!



# Get Connected

## A HIGHLIGHT OF SOME DIGITAL TOOLS WE USE IN FOURTH GRADE

- **Google Docs:** Using Google Docs to write stories and expository texts allows students to access their work from any computer and to collaborate with their partners in and out of school. Students are currently writing their fantasy stories and will complete all of their Invention Convention written work using Google Docs. The sharing and commenting features enable students to give, receive, and request feedback from teachers and peers.
- **Kidblog:** Kidblog is a blogging platform created specifically for educators and students. Our students use Kidblog to respond to their own independent reading and to communicate and connect with their peers about books.
- **Keyboarding Without Tears:** This web-based program teaches proper key-boarding techniques, while integrating multiple content areas, and games. The students use this program about 2 times per week.
- **Padlet:** Padlet is a digital bulletin board that we use to collect ideas. It is the perfect tool for brainstorming writing topics, activating prior knowledge, or crowdsourcing thoughts and opinions.
- **Today's Meet:** Today's Meet is a protected chat room that educators use to facilitate class discussions. We like to use Today's Meet during Read Alouds, so we can assess student understanding in real time.
- **Prezi:** Prezi is a presentation software program that students can use to bring their ideas to life. We encourage students to try out Prezi for their monthly book report projects!
- **Glogster:** Glogster is a visual learning platform where students can create multimedia posters. As part of Digital Learning Day in February, our students will take a full day deep dive into Black History Month, researching an influential African American and creating a Glog to display evidence of their learning.
- **imovie and Windows Movie Maker:** Students can test out their creative film-making skills with these tools. Earlier in the year, students made figurative language movies using Movie Maker and recorded original music for their movies using Incredibox. In the upcoming weeks, our fourth graders will collaborate with their eighth grade peers as they navigate imovie and create commercials for their Invention Convention projects.
- **Kahoot:** Kahoot is a game based learning platform. Students can enter a class code and play against their peers on multiple-choice quizzes created by their teacher. We've used this for social studies, grammar, and math. Students can also demonstrate their learning by creating their own Kahoot quizzes.
- **Weebly:** Weebly powers original websites, portfolios, and blogs. Both Ms. Seiler's and Mrs. Colin's class websites are powered by Weebly. Have you visited lately?
- **Spelling City:** Spelling City is an amazing tool for spelling and vocabulary. Each word study spelling list is pre-entered into Spelling City, and students can play interactive games, study flashcards, learn more about their words, and test their knowledge.
- **Educreations:** Educreations is a site for creating and sharing voice-over screencasts. Students record their voice over their ipad screen or an imported picture as they add text or writing. This is used to demonstrate understanding in math, grammar, word study, and social studies. Teacher recorded screencasts are used to introduce new word study patterns on a weekly basis.
- **Outlook Email:** SEA student email accounts are used to share information with classmates and teachers. We practice basic email etiquette and skills like searching for contacts, attaching a document, sending a picture, and inserting a weblink.
- **Voki:** Voki is an online tool where students can create an avatar, choose a voice, and have their text turned to speech. Presenting with Voki is a fun alternative to oral presentations in front of the class.
- **Khan Academy:** This website features instructional math videos and practice opportunities. It provides informative videos that we use to individualize instruction, whether it be reteaching a lesson or front loading a new concept.